

Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A dust collecting container for a vacuum cleaner, removably mounted in a suction chamber of a cleaner body to filter a dust from a dust-laden air being drawn into the suction chamber through an air suction hole that is connected with the outside, the dust collecting container comprising:

a dust collecting casing comprising a connecting hole connected with the air suction hole and a discharge portion for discharging the drawn air; and

a filter assembly comprising at least three filters, and removably mounted at the discharge portion, wherein the filter assembly comprises first, second and third filters which are porous in nature and provided in a consecutive order. the pores of the second filter being smaller than those of the first filter, the pores of the third filter being smaller than those of the second filter, and the dust-laden air drawn in through the connecting hole passing through the first, the second and the third filters in turn.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) The dust collecting container of claim 12, wherein the first filter is a net member.

4. (currently amended) The dust collecting container of claim 12, wherein the second filter is a sponge.

5. (currently amended) The dust collecting container of claim 12, wherein the third filter is a non-woven fabric.

6. (currently amended) The dust collecting container of claim 12, wherein the third filter comprises:

an outer frame disposed in close contact with a boundary of a discharge portion of the dust collecting casing; and

a non-woven fabric provided at the outer frame, defining a fluid passage through which the air is discharged from inside of the dust collecting casing to the outside and at the same time filtering minute particles from the air passed through the second filter.

7. (original) The dust collecting container of claim 6, wherein the outer frame is provided with a hook member protruding outward for hooking with a hooking protrusion formed on an upper portion of the dust collecting casing.

8. (original) The dust collecting container of claim 6, wherein the outer frame is provided with a connecting rib protruding therefrom for being inserted in a slit which is formed in the lower portion of the dust collecting casing.

9. (original) The dust collecting container of claim 1, the dust collecting casing is provided with an extended portion formed on the connecting hole, the extended portion being provided with a sealing means for sealing in between the air suction hole and the connecting hole.

10. (original) The dust collecting container of claim 9, wherein the sealing means comprises:

a first sealing member, extended at one end toward the outer side of the extended portion to a close contact with a boundary of the air suction hole; and

a pressing means for selectively pressing the first sealing member towards the air suction hole.

11. (original) The dust collecting container of claim 10, wherein the pressing means comprises:

a guide rail provided on the outer circumference of the extended portion in an oblique fashion; and

a press ring provided with a guide protrusion at an inner circumference thereof for being inserted in the guide rail, the press ring disposed such that it is moved along the outer circumference of the extended portion with the guide rail thereof being inserted in the guide rail, wherein

the pressing ring moving along the guide rail pushes the second sealing member towards the air suction hole.

12. (original) The dust collecting container of claim 10, wherein the first sealing member comprises:

a body which is inserted to a contact with an inner circumference of the extended portion;
a tight-contact portion provided at one end of the body, protruding from the outer end of the extended portion towards the air suction hole; and

a backflow preventing portion provided at the other end of the body, for preventing backflow of the dust of the dust collecting casing.

13. (original) The dust collecting container of claim 6, wherein the outer frame is provided with a second sealing member provided at an inner boundary thereof, and in tight contact with an inner boundary of the dust collecting casing which defines a dust collecting chamber, and the dust collecting chamber is sealed as the second sealing member is contacted with the inner boundary of the dust collecting casing tightly.

14. (original) The dust collecting container of claim 1, wherein the dust collecting casing is provided with a fixing rail at an outer portion thereof in correspondence with a fixing rib provided to a suction chamber of the cleaner body, and the dust collecting casing is mounted in the suction chamber as the fixing rib is inserted in the fixing rail.

15. (original) The dust collecting container of claim 1, wherein the dust collecting casing is made of a transparent material.